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General Assembly

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Agenda items 9 and 129

Report of the Economic and Social Council

Programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011

Revised estimates resulting from resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2010

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General on revised estimates resulting from resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2010 (A/65/319). During its consideration of the report, the Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information.

2. As indicated in the report of the Secretary-General, the additional requirements arising as a result of the resolutions and decisions adopted by the Council at its substantive session are estimated at $34,100 under the regular budget, all of which could be absorbed within the resources provided under the programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011. Requirements for the next biennium are proposed to be addressed in the context of the proposed programme budget for 2012-2013. The additional requirements relate to: (a) the extension of the mandate of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti until the substantive session of the Economic and Social Council in 2012 (resolution 2010/28); and (b) the realignment of the functions of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and changes to the strategic framework (resolutions 2010/17 and 2010/21).

3. As indicated in paragraphs 5 to 7 of the report of the Secretary-General, an estimated $34,100 would be required to support the activities of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti under operative paragraphs 13 to 18 of resolution 2010/28. This amount comprises: (a) $31,600 for travel, daily subsistence allowance and terminal expenses for all members of the Group and one staff member of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs to conduct a consultation meeting with the Bretton Woods institutions in Washington, D.C., in February 2011 and to

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undertake a mission to Haiti in April 2011; and (b) $2,500 for support service requirements in Haiti. These requirements are proposed to be met from within the resources approved for section 9, Economic and social affairs, of the programme budget for 2010-2011.

4. Concerning the realignment of the functions of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, as indicated in paragraphs 10 and 11 of the report of the Secretary-General, it is proposed to establish an independent evaluation unit in the Office of the Executive Director in response to the terms of operative paragraphs 6, 7 and 13 of resolutions 2010/17 and 2010/21. The unit would be funded partly through redeployment of existing regular budget resources and partly through voluntary contributions. The Secretary-General states that the effective functioning of the unit would require a staffing component of 6 posts, comprising one P-5 post for the chief of the unit, to be provided through redeployment of a vacant regular budget P-5 post (Chief, Strategic Planning Unit) from subprogramme 2, Policy and trend analysis, of section 16, International drug control, crime and terrorism prevention and criminal justice, and five other posts to be funded through voluntary contributions. The Advisory Committee notes that complementary extrabudgetary funds will continue to be sought to cover requirements for the evaluation function in 2010-2011. Requirements for the next biennium under section 16, International drug control, crime and terrorism prevention and criminal justice, will be reviewed in the context of the preparation of the proposed programme budget for 2012-2013. As a consequence of the redeployment of the P-5 post to the Independent Evaluation Unit, the Strategic Planning Unit would be funded solely through voluntary contributions.

5. **The action required of the General Assembly is set out in paragraphs 15 to 17 of the report of the Secretary-General. The Advisory Committee has no objection to the course of action proposed by the Secretary-General in paragraphs 15 and 16 of the report. It recommends that the Assembly approve the proposal of the Secretary-General in paragraph 17 for the redeployment of one regular budget P-5 post of Chief, Strategic Planning Unit, from subprogramme 2, Policy and trend analysis, to executive direction and management, as Chief, Independent Evaluation Unit, under section 16, International drug control, crime and terrorism prevention and criminal justice.**